(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The necessity of conservation of biological diversity has been recognised. The Government has taken a realistic approach in this regard. Measures taken include the following:

(i) Legislations like Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been enacted.

(ii) National parks, sanctuaries and special projects like Project Tiger for protection of endangered species have been established.

(iii) Regular survey and taxonomic studies of flora and fauna are being done by the Botanical survey of India and the Zoological Survey of India respectively.

(iv) Endangered species of flora and fauna are being listed.

(v) For setting up of Biosphere Reserves in representative biogeographic regions, 13 sites have been identified. Two Reserves, *viz.*, Nilgiri and Nanda Devi have been set up.

(vi) Schemes have been introduced for conservation of wetlands and mangroves.

(vii) Programmes of conservation education and awareness involving a number of non-Governmental organisations have been taken up.

(viii) India is a party to major International Conventions/ Protocols like Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention for the Protection of Migratory Animals, Ramsar Convention for the protection of wetlands, etc.

Representation for Exempting Sports Federation from Payment of Income-Tax

753. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sports organisations including the Board of Control for Cricket in India, have represented to Government for exempting all sports federations from filing income-tax returns and payment of tax; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The provisions in the Income Tax Act regarding exemption of income of the associations or institutions having the object of control, supervision, regulation or encouragement in India of the games of Cricket, Hockey, Football, Tennis and other notified games or sports, have been, with effect from 1-4-1989, replaced by the provisions providing for uniform discipline of exemption in respect of voluntary organisations including sports organisations. The Government have received representations requesting to retain the existing provisions. The implications of the changed provisions have been clarified to some of these organisations.

Export of Garments and Textiles to the United States

754. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is facing a stiff competition from Taiwan, South Korea, China, Japan and Hong-Kong in regard to export of garments and